

**Judiciary Democratic
Forum on
Medical Malpractice
February 8, 2005**

Anticipated Members:

Cong. John Conyers
Cong. Bill Delahunt

Cong. Sheila Jackson Lee
Cong. Linda Sanchez

Expert Witnesses

Joanne Doroshow, Executive Director
Center for Justice and Democracy

Frank Clemente, Director
Congress Watch, Public Citizen

Sally Greenberg
Senior Product Safety Council
Consumers Union

Bob Hunter, Director of Insurance
Consumer Federation of America

Some of the victims testifying include:

- ***Kathy and Scott Olsen of California***, whose 12-year-old son is blind and brain-damaged after an HMO refused to give him an \$800 CAT scan when he was two years old.
- ***Diane Meyer of Nevada***, who was diagnosed with kidney stones and was sent home to pass them, despite the fact that one was too large and was poisoning her body from within. Doctors later discovered this but failed to call Diane, who then slipped into a coma and later had to have both legs amputated below the knee.
- ***John McCormack of Massachusetts***, whose 13-month old daughter died while awaiting surgery to repair a malfunctioning shunt in her skull, while the attending physician slept through repeated pages because his beeper was set to vibrate and didn't wake him, leaving two neurosurgery residents in charge of her care.
- ***Deborah Gillham of Maryland***, was supposed to have a routine laparoscopic procedure to look for a cyst on her left ovary. During the procedure, the physician punctured her colon which was not discovered for 24 hours. She had to undergo several surgeries to repair the puncture. She later found out that she was not the first victim of this doctor.
- ***Kristine McCown of Nebraska***, was 25-years-old in 1998 when she suffered her first stroke after having taken Vioxx. She continued to take the medication and suffered another stroke. Kristine has since had to relearn how to talk, walk and perform all daily activities. Kristine's doctor was the one who suggested she sue Merck.